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### BOOK NOTICES.

*The American Race: A linguistic classification and ethnographic description of the native tribes of North and South America.* By Daniel G. Brinton, A. M., M. D., New York, 1891. N. D. C. Hodges. 392 p., 12 mo.

Dr. Brinton has just published another volume, without doubt the most useful of all his works to the general student. It follows hard upon his "Races and Peoples," and is indeed an expansion of the ninth lecture of that series. The two volumes, taken together, furnish a general discussion of ethnology, involving thirty years of close study, all of which finds its climax in these pages.

The author exalts language above all of her criteria for separating the members of the American race, and in the employment of language grammatical structure is theoretically ranked superior to lexical elements as a classific concept. He confesses, however, that we are poorly off in our knowledge of grammar. It is also likely that the tendency of late years has been to underestimate the significance of mere lexical analogies. The vocabulary, after all, must be our main stand-by in such an undertaking.

Dr. Brinton does not agree with the Bureau of Ethnology in using the final syllable *an* to denote stocks; but from other points of view than language we like that device. We have frequent occasion to discriminate tribal organization or kinship from the tongue. In that case it is very convenient to have a definite syllable. Dr. Brinton is right about Siouan, nevertheless, which should be Dakotan or some other significant word.

The work is especially valuable in the great mass of information concerning the American tribes south of the United States. The